Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid which comprises DNA encoding an antigenic peptidic sequence which binds to a Class II *MHC* molecule and DNA encoding the extracellular portion of the β chain of said Class II *MHC* molecule, wherein said peptidic sequence which specifically binds to a Class II *MHC* molecule is an autoantigen.

2. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 1 which further comprises DNA encoding the extracellular portion of the α chain of said Class II *MHC* molecule.

3. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 1, wherein said Class II *MHC* β chain lacks a complete transmembrane region.

4. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 2, wherein said Class II *MHC* β chain and said Class II *MHC* α chain lack complete transmembrane regions.

5. (Canceled herein).

6. (Withdrawn) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 5, wherein said autoantigen is a multiple sclerosis autoantigen.

7. (Withdrawn) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim 5, wherein said autoantigen is an experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis autoantigen.

8. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid according to claim ~~5~~ 1, wherein said autoantigen is a diabetic autoantigen.

9. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 8, wherein said diabetic autoantigen is a fragment of glutamic acid decarboxylase.

10. (Currently amended) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 9, wherein said DNA encoding a fragment of glutamic acid decarboxylase comprises a sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 1-13 or immunologically equivalent variants or fragments thereof.

11. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said DNA encoding a peptide sequence which specifically binds to said Class II *MHC* molecule encodes SEQ ID NO: 1.

12. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said DNA encoding a peptide sequence which specifically binds to said Class II *MHC* molecule encodes SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 which further comprises DNA encoding a biotinylation site.

14. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 which further comprises DNA encoding an oligohistidine sequence.

15. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 2 which further comprises DNA encoding a biotinylation site.

16. (Original) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 2 which further comprises DNA encoding an oligohistidine sequence.

17. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1.

18. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 2.

19. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 9.

20. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 10.

21. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 11.

22. (Original) A recombinant protein which is encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 12.

23. (Currently amended) A recombinant protein which comprises a preselected peptidic antigen which binds to a Class II *MHC* molecule, the extracellular portion of a β chain of said Class II *MHC* molecule, and the extracellular portion of an α chain of said Class II *MHC* molecule, wherein said preselected peptide antigen is an autoantigen.

24. (Original) A recombinant protein according to claim 23 which further comprises a biotinylation site.

25. (Original) A recombinant protein according to claim 23 which further comprises an oligohistidine sequence.

26. (Canceled herein).

27. (Original) A stable molecular complex which comprises a recombinant protein according to claim 17.

28. (Original) A stable molecular complex which comprises a recombinant protein according to claim 18.

29. (Original) A stable molecular complex which comprises a recombinant protein according to claim 23.

30. (Original) A stable molecular complex which comprises a recombinant protein according to claim 24.

31. (Original) A stable molecular complex which comprises a recombinant protein according to claim 25.

32. (Original) A stable molecular complex according to claim 30 which further comprises a biotin covalently linked to said recombinant protein.

33. (Original) A stable molecular complex according to claim 30 which further comprises an effector-avidin bound to said biotin.

34. (Original) A stable molecular complex according to claim 33, wherein said effector is selected from a label and a toxin.

35. (Original) A stable molecular complex according to claim 23, wherein said peptidic antigen is a diabetic autoantigen.

36-48. (Canceled herein).

49. (New) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said Class II *MHC* molecule is an auto-immune disease-associated Class II *MHC* molecule.

50. (New) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 49, wherein said auto-immune disease-associated Class II *MHC* molecule is a Type 1 diabetes-associated Class II *MHC* molecule.

51. (New) A recombinant protein of claim 23, wherein said Class II *MHC* molecule is an auto-immune disease-associated Class II *MHC* molecule.

52. (New) A recombinant nucleic acid of claim 51, wherein said auto-immune disease-associated Class II *MHC* molecule is a Type 1 diabetes-associated Class II *MHC* molecule.